

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 20, 22 to 31, 33 to 43, 46 and 47 are pending in the application, with Claims 6, 21, 32, 44 and 45 having been cancelled herein, and Claims 46 and 47 having been newly-added herein. Claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 20, 27, 31, 38, 42, 43, 46 and 47 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The title was objected to. The title has been changed in accordance with the suggestion provided in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 7, 10, 11, 16 to 22, 25, 26, 31 to 33, 36, 37, 42 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,430,711 (Sekizawa), and Claims 8, 9, 12 to 15, 23, 24, 27 to 30, 34, 35, 38 to 41, 43 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sekizawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,581,092 (Motoyama). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In one aspect of the invention as claimed in Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47, the status of a device (e.g., a printer) is monitored such that a user can be informed of a change in status of the device (e.g., that an error has occurred, or that an ink cartridge needs to be exchanged) via email. According to the invention, data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus is generated in the device and transmitted to an external apparatus, where the setting screen is for setting destination information of a destination for an electronic mail. The device then receives destination information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network. Then, when a change of status occurs in the device, transmission data which includes an obtained message and the received destination information is generated and transmitted as an electronic mail. As a result, when a change of

status occurs in the device, a message indicating the change in status is sent to the destination address set in the external apparatus.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a status obtaining unit adapted to obtain status information about a status of the device, a message obtaining unit adapted to obtain a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a transmission data generation unit adapted to generate transmission data according to the message obtained by the obtaining unit and destination information indicating a message destination, an electronic mail transmission unit adapted to transmit as electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit, a data generation unit adapted to generate data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting the destination information, a data transmission unit adapted to transmit the data generated by the data generation unit to the external apparatus via a network, and a destination information reception unit adapted to receive the destination information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network.

Claims 16, 46 and 47 are device, method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 5 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising an information holding unit adapted to hold setting information set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message depending on a status of the device, a data generation unit adapted to generate data indicating a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting the setting information, a data transmission unit adapted to transmit the data generated by the data generation unit to the

external apparatus via a network, and a setting information reception unit adapted to receive the setting information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network.

Claims 20, 31 and 42 are device, method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 5.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 21, 42, 46 and 47. More particularly, with regard to Claims 1, 16, 46 and 47, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of generating data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting destination information indicating a message destination, transmitting the generated data to the external apparatus via a network, and receiving the destination information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network. Similarly, with regard to Claims 5, 20, 31 and 42, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of generating data indicating a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting of setting information which is set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message depending on a status of a device, transmitting the generated data to the external apparatus via a network, and receiving the setting information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network.

Sekizawa is merely seen to teach a monitoring system that includes status monitoring agents in a PC that get status information of printers locally connected to the PC. When the agent unit gets the status of the printer, it sends a printer status mail message indicating a printer status to a mail server. The destination information indicating the destination of the e-mail (i.e., the mail server address) is set in a setting screen displayed by the agent unit of the PC, which is loaded onto the PC in advance. In contrast, in the present

invention, the setting screen display information is generated in the printer and sent to the PC, whereby a user can then input the destination information into the setting screen, and the destination information is then transmitted back to the PC. Thus, in the present invention, the printer itself includes a device (network board, for example) that monitors the status of the printer, and as result of receiving the destination information, can generate the e-mail message internally and send the e-mail message directly to the destination address, without the need for the agent in the external apparatus to perform these functions. Accordingly, the presently claimed invention is not taught or suggested by Sekizawa.

Motoyama is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Sekizawa, would have rendered the present invention obvious. In this regard, Motoyama is merely seen to disclose that a device can generate and send an e-mail message. However, like Sekizawa, Motoyama is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 21, 42, 46 and 47.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 21, 42, 46 and 47, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In a relates aspect of the invention as claimed in Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, the device (e.g., printer) generates an electronic mail which includes a status message and a registered reply destination different from the source of the e-mail for replying to the electronic mail, and sends the electronic mail to a stored destination. As a result, when a user receives the e-mail from the printer with the status message, the user will not reply back to the printer, but will reply to the different address indicated in the reply destination.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a status obtaining unit adapted to obtain status information about a status of the device, a

message obtaining unit adapted to obtain a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a storage unit adapted to store destination information indicating a destination of an electronic mail, a registration unit adapted to register reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail different from a source of the electronic mail, a transmission data generation unit adapted to generate transmission data according to the message obtained by the message obtaining unit, the generated transmission data including the destination information and the reply destination information, and an electronic mail transmission unit adapted to transmit as electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit.

Claims 27, 38 and 43 are device, method, and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 12.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a device generating transmission data according to an obtained message indicating a status of the device, the generated transmission data including stored destination information and registered reply destination information which is different from a source of an electronic mail, and transmitting as electronic mail the generated transmission data to the destination.

Sekizawa is merely seen to disclose that the printer status e-mail includes a CUSTOMER MAIL ADDRESS (Fig. 22), which does not indicate a reply destination different from a source of the e-mail, but rather, indicates a source address of the e-mail. Therefore, Sekizawa is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43.

Motoyama is not seen to add anything to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of Sekizawa, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a device generating transmission data according to an obtained message indicating a status of the


device, the generated transmission data including stored destination information and registered reply destination information which is different from a source of an electronic mail, and transmitting as electronic mail the generated transmission data to the destination.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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